Electronic Version
Stylesheet Version v1.1.1

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1.A method for accessing a memory having a storage space larger than the addressing capability of a microprocessor, the memory comprising a plurality of memory banks, the microprocessor comprising a stack, an interrupt processing unit, and a memory bank selector for selecting the memory banks, the method comprising:

(a) storing an interrupt service routine in one of the memory banks;

(b) when an interrupt occurs, pushing a current program counter address onto the stack by the interrupt processing unit, pushing a bank number of the current memory bank onto the stack, and setting the memory bank selector to the bank number of the memory bank storing the interrupt service routine;

(c) switching the microprocessor to the memory bank storing the interrupt service routine to execute the interrupt service routine;

(d) after interrupt service routine finishes execution, popping the bank number of the memory bank stored in the stack in step (b) from the stack by the interrupt processor unit, restoring the popped bank number to the

memory bank selector, and popping the program counter address stored in the stack in step (b) from the stack; and

(e) switching the microprocessor back to the memory bank corresponding to the bank number stored in the memory bank selector to continue executing the program interrupted in step (b).

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the microprocessor is a MCS series microprocessor.

[c3] 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises storing a common area in each memory bank.

[c4] 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the common area does not comprise the interrupt service routine.

[c5] 5. A single chip microprocessor for executing the method of claim 1.